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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/350,315	07/09/1999	MARTIN ZILLIACUS	11784.101US0	7885

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EXAMINER

HOTALING, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/350,315

Applicant(s)

ZILLIACUS ET AL.

Examiner

John M Hotaling II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. The request filed on 2/6/02 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of this application under 37 CFR 1.114C based on parent Application No. 09350315 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darling WO 93/23125 in view of LaDue US Patent Number 5,999,808 and Angell WO 98/47589. Darling discloses a computer game system allowing interactive, wireless multiplayer game play which comprises a portable computer game machine, memory device and a communications unit. Darling discloses all of the instant application with respect to the game units connection to each other and the game setup (claims 14, 16, 29, 41. Additionally, communication between the units and the game server for game play data is disclosed in Darling. The communications system and protocols allow for interactive or standalone game play to occur between players and also allow games to be updated to include features and/or options. Page 3 disclose that computer game systems, machines and memory devices according to the invention have the advantage

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that they enable two or more players to participate in the same game without the need for wired interconnections, which are inconvenient and cumbersome. Page 7 discloses that in a preferred embodiment, communications unit 30 is radio frequency based (rf) and provides a substantial range of freedom of movement of one game machine 10 with respect to another and that in some circumstances other communications means may be advantageously employed. Page 8 discloses that transmitter and receiver unit 32 can be constructed either from available transmitter and receiver modules or can be custom built. Page 9 discloses that each machine in the group must receive data, in turn, from each other machine in the group and transmit data to all the other machines in the group. Page 20-21 discloses that provided a standard communications protocol is employed, the present invention may be implemented to allow interactive game playing between hand-held game machines manufactured by different companies. Darling discloses the set up of the games and the polling of the wireless game unit for other wireless game units (claims 13, 14, 27, 40, 41). Darling lacks in disclosing using his system on a plurality of mobile phones and identification of each of the phones to be used for playing purposes and specific networks. In an analogous invention LaDue discloses the use of mobile phone technology to play games. LaDue discloses in columns 1 and 2 a wireless gaming method that seamlessly transmits application specific messages over cellular radio control channels and switches for use in wireless gaming and wagering. The disclosed application for this new data communications platform is wireless gaming over cellular, paging and signaling networks. This wireless gaming system operates in normal cellular, paging, and signaling networks. Column 4

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discloses the control and access to the network, that the present invention provides for full duplex communications by fully integrating cellular transceivers and paging receivers that communicate together within specially designed and programmed end user CCAD communications terminals. Column 20 discloses that the system can communicate with the World Wide Web via the Internet and can access e-mail, WWW file transfer point data bases and other network entities and can send and receive e-mail in real time. With respect to claims 9, 10, 23, 24, 36 and 37 that in order to reach a network one must first go through a base station is inherent in the use of a wireless system. With respect to claim 15 Figure 9B shows a mobile phone for use with the gaming system. In yet another analogous invention Angell discloses a wireless interactive gaming system which includes an identification code, a wager entry apparatus, and communications means connected to a central processor establishes and stores a players account corresponding to the identification code and deducts the wager amount from the players account based on the identification code. Page 3 discloses that the identification code may be stored in the memory in a digital format. Page 4 discloses that a large number of players may be able to interact with the same game. With respect to the claim limitations relative to a low power RF link a low power RF link fits in the category of a normal cellular, paging, and signaling network. One of ordinary skill in the art with respect to communication system would recognize and have a tacit understanding that it is inherent in the use of a communication device to have a specific address or identification associated with the device otherwise it would be impossible to have a portable phone. Therefore the claim limitations regarding the

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identification of the unit as a low power RF link telephone number has been considered but are not considered to patentably distinguish the invention as taught above. With respect to claims 4-8, 18-22, 31-35 where network includes a wide area network, the internet, public land mobile network, public switched telephone network, wireless network please see above where it is disclosed in Darling that provided a standard communications protocol is employed, the present invention may be implemented to allow interactive game playing between hand-held game machines manufactured by different companies and that in some circumstances other communications means may be advantageously employed. All of the claimed network types use a standard and well documented communications protocol and baring any criticality one network is analogous to any of the other networks and as such has been considered by the prior art as disclosed above. With respect to claims 11, 12, 25, 26, 38, and 39 it is an obvious matter of choice well within the capabilities of one skilled in phones art to pause a game, terminate a game or give the option to do either upon receipt of a phone call since such is notoriously well known with respect to phones. Using the above teachings one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been able to provide a multi player game scenario on a wireless cell phone gaming network using the motivation of Darling Page 20-21 discloses that provided a standard communications protocol is employed, the present invention may be implemented to allow interactive game playing between hand-held game machines manufactured by different companies and that in some circumstances other communications means may be advantageously employed and the motivation of LaDue that the wireless gaming system operates in

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normal cellular, paging, and signaling networks with the teachings of Angell that it is well known to have a player module associated with a player ID which could be a phone number.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mills '225 discloses a remotely retrieving sim stored data over a connection-less communications link

Comas et al '583 discloses a interactive wireless gaming system

Beuk et al '085 discloses a wireless communications systems for games

WO 99/02003 discloses real time mobile video communications with low power terminals

WO 97/28636 discloses a interactive game playing telecommunications network

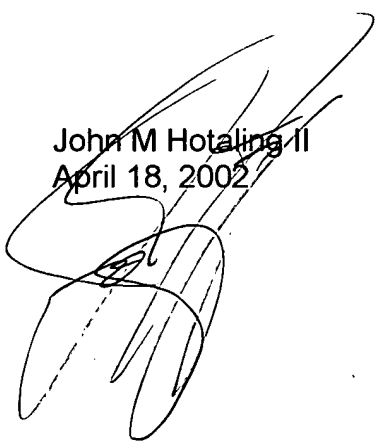
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Hotaling II whose telephone number is 703 305 0780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

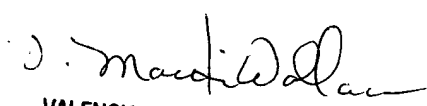
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (703) 308-4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 746 3236 for regular communications and 703 308-7769 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-7777.



John M Hotelling II
April 18, 2002



VALENCIA MARTIN-WALLACE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700